

**APPENDIX B**

**REVIEW OF PAST PLANNING AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES  
PERTINENT TO THE ECONOMIC CHAPTER OF THE  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**



**TOWN OF SOUTHOLD**

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This section summarizes existing plans and initiatives describing the goals and needs of the Town from an economic development context. It is important to note that only a selection of the Town's most recent and relevant planning and economic development initiatives were summarized in detail. These plans were chosen for review since they present more updated data and information, which have superseded previously dated planning documents with similar purpose.

The plans that were reviewed date back to 1997, and include the *Economic Development Plan*, *North Fork Recreational Travel Needs Assessment*, *Blue Ribbon Commission for Rural Southold*, *Southold Comprehensive Implementation Strategy and Generic Environmental Impact Statement*, *Local Waterfront Revitalization Program*, *Town of Southold Hamlet Study*, *Fishers Island Strategic Plan*, and *Southold Town Hamlet Stakeholder Initiative*. Where appropriate, significant goals, objectives and yet-to-be-implemented recommendations were taken from these planning documents and applied to the formation of goals, objectives and implementation strategies for the Economic Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

*Economic Development Plan (1997)* - This is a plan for Southold's economic health, recognizing agriculture and fishing as important economic stimuli in the Town, as well as hamlet centers, tourism and eco-tourism. The study recognizes the importance of an economic development plan to manage tourism, encourage bed and breakfasts, provide visitor information, and maintain and enhance the unique agricultural, mariculture and commercial fishing aspects of the Town's economy.

*North Fork Recreational Travel Needs Assessment (2001)* - As part of the Long Island Transportation Plan to Manage Congestion (also known as LITP 2000), this document reviews travel issues of the rural and recreational areas of the North Fork, and seeks to better satisfy the transportation needs for a study area that includes parts of the Towns of Riverhead, Southold and Shelter Island. The assessment offers recommendations including increased and/or different patterns of local transit service by Suffolk County Transit, increased and/or different patterns of service by the Long Island Rail Road, and increased and/or different patterns of local ferry operations. There were also suggestions made regarding local roads, including new signage along roads showing "Best Route to...", and improving major roads for increased carrying capacity and increased safety measures.



*Blue Ribbon Commission for Rural Southold (2002)* - This report provides recommendations designed to preserve farmland, open space and the rural aesthetics associated with agriculture and open space preservation in the Town. The report establishes goals for preservation of 80 percent of the remaining farmland and open space, with a development density reduction of 60 percent. This report outlines the initial provisions for a Rural Incentive District and recognizes conservation subdivision, continuation of Purchase of Development Rights and Transfer of Development Rights programs as primary land use tools to achieve these goals.

*Southold Comprehensive Implementation Strategy (CIS) and GEIS (2003)* - This action determined, collated, analyzed and considered implementation of planning and program tools and mechanisms described and recommended in the numerous planning studies undertaken within Southold over the previous 20 years. These studies, plans and recommendations were reviewed in terms of Town needs and goals, in order to achieve the Town's vision as articulated in those plans. Review of the plans and studies found that many newer documents reiterated prior recommendations, resulting in much consistency between studies and the goals of the Town over the years. The CIS involved primarily legislative changes, with no specific physical changes proposed. Implementation would be achieved through a set of amendments to the Southold Town Code and various Town regulations, procedures, policies, planning and management initiatives, and would require the approval of the Town Board.

The Town Board formed a working group/moratorium team for the express purpose of determining a legally defensible, cost-effective, efficient and effective implementation strategy to achieve the Town's goals. The group examined the Town's needs, resources and database, which indicated a need to translate the above-noted studies and Town Board initiatives into a cohesive plan, in the form of a package of legislation and procedures. The Moratorium Team synthesized a total of 43 different recommendations.

The Town Board initially considered all relevant prior recommendations with an emphasis on those that protect farmland and open space, promote affordable housing, and preserve natural resources. The Town's objectives in focusing on these goals were twofold: 1) to maintain the unique cultural and historic sense of place found within Southold's communities, and 2) to maintain the high quality of the Town's environmental resources.

*Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (2005)* - This document provides planning and environmental information and data that may be utilized to formulate development strategies to encourage and protect the waterfront areas of the Town. It emphasizes the Town-wide importance of coastal zone and traditional maritime uses in terms of the commercial and recreational qualities of the Town. It also recommends waterfront access and water-dependent/water-enhanced uses, and provides a compendium of information relating to coastal and Town-wide resources.

*Town of Southold Hamlet Study (2005)* - From 2004-2005, stakeholders from the hamlets of Cutchogue, East Marion, Greenport, Mattituck, New Suffolk, Orient, Peconic and Southold came together to assist the Town's planning efforts. The process resulted in the Hamlet Stakeholder committees' formation of a set of recommendations focused on 17 Hamlet Sustainability



Principles, along with maps of hamlet centers and HALO zones (areas for growth that are based on smart-growth principles), as well as an inventory and statistics specific to each of the eight hamlets. In June 2005, the Town Board accepted the stakeholder recommendations.

The 2005 Hamlet Study is now looked at as a “starting point” for the larger *Hamlet Stakeholder Initiative*. The Hamlet Study committees were reconvened in 2007 as Hamlet Stakeholder committees, at which time each committee re-evaluated and prioritized the original recommendations with the assistance and guidance of public input.

*Fishers Island Strategic Plan: 2007 - 2017 (2007)* - Prior Town planning studies had created a foundational inventory of the Island’s resources, but certain aspects of this database were in need of updating and enhancement. This Plan was the product of active input by appointed representatives from the Island, addressing the specific concerns of the Fishers Island community. It is intended to provide a visionary focus for decision-making at the community and governmental levels, as well as a practical listing of actions or strategies whereby the community’s Vision could be realized. The purpose of this strategic planning exercise was to chart Fishers Island’s course for the next decade using the latest available data, and thereby lay a strong and effective foundation for future community action. The structure of the document is intended to facilitate self-governance, whether through the channels of the existing Town government or through the collective, voluntary actions of the island’s residents. As a result, it is intended to be more of a source book, reference manual, and strategic document than a repository for all the known information about Fishers Island. The fruit of the dialogue from which the Plan emerged is based is encapsulated in the Vision Statement, its Goals and Objectives, and the Recommended Implementation Strategies.

*Southold Town Hamlet Stakeholder Initiative (2007-08)* - The Hamlet Study committees formed during the 2005 Town of Southold Hamlet Study were reconvened in 2007 for the purpose of advancing the implementation of the Hamlet Study. This Initiative served to further define a vision statement for each of the eight original hamlets studied in the Hamlet Study. In addition, Fishers Island also developed a series of recommendations through its stakeholders, and residents of the Village of Greenport joined the Greenport Hamlet Stakeholder committee.

The Hamlet Stakeholder Initiative represents a cornerstone of community participation. Short and long term planning projects outlined in the Hamlet Study were prioritized, and information was disseminated to residents within their respective communities to develop public consensus. Reports of recommendations were submitted to the Town Board and Town Planning Board, with many of these recommendations currently being addressed and advanced throughout the Town. Several status reports were produced, with the latest being prepared for the year ending 2008.